

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 IGA-01 SP-02 PM-04 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/OMA:BGCROWE:DLS
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NEA/IRN:CNAAS
EB/CBA/OSB:ADBRAMANTE
L/EB:SBOND (INFO)
L/NEA:JROHWER
TREASURY:PPLYBERG
E:RPOATS

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P 021850Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234932

PASS J. BILLER AND E. LAWSON FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN LEND-LEASE DEBT

REF: (A) STATE 178191, (B) STATE 144852, (C) TEHRAN 8665,
(D) TEHRAN A-192

1. WE ARE VERY CONCERNED AT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN
SETTLING IRAN'S SURPLUS PROPERTY AND LEND-LEASE DEBTS TO
THE UNITED STATES. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON HAS DISCUSSED
THE MATTER WITH HUSHANG ANSARY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS OVER
THE PAST SIX MONTHS. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS ANSARY HAS
ACKNOWLEDGED THE DESIRABILITY OF RESOLVING THE ISSUE AND
PROMISED TO GIVE IT FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THERE HAS BEEN
NO FOLLOW-UP BY ANSARY, HOWEVER, AND NO INDICATION WE ARE
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ANY CLOSER TO SETTLEMENT.

2. THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEBT OVERSIGHT HAS DELAYED THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON DELINQUENT INTERNATIONAL DEBT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER. WHILE THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT FIRMLY SET A NEW DATE FOR THE HEARINGS, THEY HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEY COULD BE SCHEDULED AS EARLY AS LATE OCTOBER. ALL CONTACTS WITH THE COMMITTEE

INDICATE THEY WILL FOCUS MAJOR ATTENTION ON IRAN'S ARREARAGES. WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO RESOLVE MATTER PRIOR TO THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION DETRIMENTAL TO U.S.-IRANIAN RELATIONS.

3. FYI: DOCUMENTATION AND ARGUMENTATION SUBMITTED VIA REF (A) ON IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIM ADDS NOTHING TO WHAT WE BELIEVE IS LEGALLY A WEAK CASE. THE MATTER OF AN OFFICIAL USG REPLY TO THE NEW DOCUMENTATION IS UNDER STUDY. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT GOI MAY USE LACK OF USG RESPONSIVENESS ON COUNTERCLAIM AS PRETEXT FOR INDEFINITELY DELAYING SETTLEMENT OF THE LEND-LEASE DEBT. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD PURSUE MATTER WITH ANSARY AT NEXT CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY. IF ANSARY RAISES COUNTERCLAIMS YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT NEW DOCUMENTATION IS BEING STUDIED. ANY EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS ON OTHER WAYS TO EXPEDITE LEND-LEASE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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